



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

World War I munitions: Stokes mortar shell

Most World War I chemical munitions design took place at the former Camp American University in Washington, D.C., and were produced at Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland, or a commercial production facility. Testing of World War I chemical munitions occurred at firing ranges on military installations within the continental United States. Occasional recoveries of unexploded rounds occur on these ranges. In addition to firing ranges, current and former military installations typically recover obsolete buried munitions.

The Stokes mortar shell typically contained a phosgene or chloropicrin fill, although

some local filling with mustard and other experimental agents did occur.

A blue-gray shell distinguishes the body of the Stokes mortar shell with red, white or yellow bands identifying the chemical agent fill. It measures approximately 20 inches long, 4 inches in diameter and weighs up to 25 pounds. A 2-inch cylinder perforated with 16 holes makes up the tail section of the Stokes mortar shell.



Stokes mortar

For more information,
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